

# 'I Didn't Try to Kill Him'

# Waitress Facing Attempted Murder Rap Tells Her Story

PUBLISHED EVERY SUNDAY AND THURSDAY MORNING  
—the ONLY Newspaper Published AND PRINTED in Torrance. Established 1914.

## TORRANCE HERALD

—and Torrance Herald Shoppers Reach 100,000 Buyers

39th Year—No. 90 TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1953 PHONE FAIRfax 8-4000 12 12 PAGES

## 1000 Good Neighbors Meet for 'Y' Breakfast

### City Clerk Honored at Annual Feed

About 1000 Torrance Good Neighbors met at the Civic Auditorium for breakfast yesterday morning to help swell the local YMCA funds and to pay tribute to City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, who was named "Good Neighbor" for 1953.

The fifth annual "Good Neighbor" breakfast, sponsored by the Torrance YMCA, was hailed as a success by members of the group's board of directors, most of whom were on hand with aprons and chef hats to do the cooking.

Final ticket count after the breakfast indicated that just about 1000 persons filed through to pick up their hot cakes, orange juice, and sausages during the five-hour feed.

**Winner Announced**  
Dr. Rollin R. Smith, former chairman of the YMCA Board of Managers, announced the selection of Bartlett as the city's "Good Neighbor" for 1953, and introduced the city clerk to those who were in the auditorium at the time.

Bartlett was nominated by George Powell, former City Councilman and present assistant director of Civil Defense for Torrance.

In his nominating letter, Powell said he thought Bartlett deserved the honor in recognition of his loyal service to the city in his capacity as city clerk for more than 31 years, as one of the founders of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, and as a friend to all who have known him.

Proceeds of the breakfast go to help defray expenses of the local YMCA program.

## Hit-Run Driver Gets Five Days

Five days in county jail and an order to be held for the U. S. Immigration Service was handed to Pedro Nunez Jimenez, 31, of Redondo-Beach by Judge John A. Shidler Thursday after he was picked up on a warrant charging him with hit-run driving.

Police were led to Jimenez by school authorities who copied down his license number after he struck six-year-old Richard Schuster, of 3954 W. 182nd St., near Perry School on Oct. 30. Jimenez was arrested by police Wednesday and was sentenced in South Bay Municipal Court Thursday morning.

## Bogus Check Passer Due For Hearing

Freed on \$500 bail after waiving preliminary hearing on charges of passing more than 25 bogus checks in the area was Irma Bunch, 41, of 2075 Torrance Blvd., when she appeared before Judge John A. Shidler Wednesday at South Bay Municipal Court.

Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Department said the woman was apprehended after an investigation lasting several months.

She will appear in Superior Court to answer the charges on Nov. 15, Bennett said.

Most of the checks were cashed locally, he said, and ranged in amounts from \$5 to \$30.



**BEST GOOD NEIGHBOR . . .** Dr. Rollin R. Smith, chairman of the YMCA "Good Neighbor Breakfast" held Saturday morning, looks over the shoulder of City Clerk A. H. Bartlett, who was named the city's "Good Neighbor." The city official was presented with a tie clasp and cufflinks as a memento of the occasion. (Herald photo).

## Workings of Christmas Basket Clearing House Told by Jaycees

Because each year many needy families receive no Christmas baskets while other families receive several, the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce volunteered Thursday night to act as a clearing house for Christmas basket information.

"Until now," states Chuck Herren, chairman of the Jaycee clearing house project, "there has been no agency to whom organizations or individuals could turn to obtain the names of families deserving of Christmas baskets. We hope to offer a double-barreled service. First, we will receive and maintain a list of less fortunate families. From this list any group desiring to give Christmas baskets can obtain the names of deserving families. Secondly, we are asking the cooperation of all organizations to notify us of the names of families to whom they are giving baskets."

Herren stated that only by knowing the names of families receiving baskets would the Jaycees be able to accomplish its aim of creating a more equitable distribution of Christmas baskets.

He states that the Junior Chamber would not attempt to influence or "order" any organization to give baskets to any particular family but that it would only furnish information, as available, that a certain family was or was not receiving any baskets and how many if more than one.

"Last year," Herren stated, "we knew of one family that received 12 baskets. This was due to the fact that the needs of the family were publicized shortly before Christmas and a great many people thus learned of this family's needs. At the same time a large fatherless family of nine children received only a small box of second hand toys because no one had knowledge of the family's difficulties. Under the service offered by the Junior Chamber

## Motorists Dies Following Crash

Adolph "Shorty" Lenz, 60, of Redondo Beach, who was injured in an auto accident at Hawthorne Ave. and 182nd St. on Oct. 27, died at Harbor General Hospital Thursday evening.

An employee of Douglas Aircraft in the Torrance plant, Lenz was on his way to work about 6 a.m. on Oct. 27 when his auto and one driven by George Martini, of 4813 W. 135th St., collided in the intersection. Martini also was injured.

Lenz was born in Jamaica, N.Y., and had served overseas with the U.S. Army and Navy Union. He was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Survivors include his bride of nine days, Ruth Dellish Hardy Lenz; and daughter, Carmella Crum, and a son, Ted.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Niland's Chapel of the Flowers in Redondo.

## North-Torrance Cook Arrested As Bookmaker

Acting on an anonymous tip, members of the Sheriff's vice squad and the Torrance Police raided a North-Torrance house shortly after noon yesterday and arrested a 40-year-old cook on suspicion of bookmaking.

Brought to the Torrance jail for booking was William Alonzo Owens, in whose home at 3216 W. 187th Pl., deputies said they found scratch sheets, extension telephone, radio, racing forms and betting markers marked in code.

Claiming excellent cooperation from Assistant Police Chief Willard H. Haslam who assisted in the raid, was Sgt. W. D. Barker of the vice detail. Four members of the sheriff's department participated in the arrest. Owens was arrested on the bookmaking charge after he accepted a bet with marked money. Bail was set at \$500.

## WEATHER

The weather bureau predicts clear sunny skies today and a warm afternoon, with a high temperature of 85 degrees. No rain is in the offing, according to the experts.



**TO REIGN OVER HOMECOMING . . .** Queen Doralee Chaffin, center, will rule over Torrance High homecoming events next week and will climax her reign at the Torrance-Louisiana game here Friday night, Nov. 13. Shown with her are members of the Royal Court. Left to right are Sandra Constance, Connie Erickson, Queen Doralee, Pat Fenton, and Norma Quine.



**SHATTERED . . .** Blonde Virginia Conway, 22-year-old cocktail waitress who surrendered to police to face a charge of attempted murder, examines the shattered windows of her convertible. Her husband pitched rocks through them, she claims. Witnesses say she attempted to run over her husband, but she denies it in her version of what happened, in story below. (Herald Photo)

## Merchants Told To Watch for Stolen Checks

Torrance merchants were warned this week to be on the alert for payroll checks stolen from two Harbor City firms last week.

The first batch, stolen from Sewall Boat Co., of 25101 Normandie Ave., have already been appearing locally. Three of them have been turned over to Det. Sgt. Percy Bennett of the Torrance Police Dept., he said yesterday.

The checks were stolen about a week ago from the firm and are showing up with H. R. Jackson as the payee, and signed by James H. Hall. All are dated Oct. 26, Bennett said. They are drawn on the Huntington Park branch of Bank of America.

The checks vary in amount from \$63 to \$74, Bennett said. He asked that anyone having any of the checks contact him at the local police station.

At the same time, Bennett said, someone stole several payroll checks from the Pacific Coast Mill and Lumber Co. at 25855 S. Normandie Ave. Checks Nos. 2685 to 2700 inclusive were taken from his firm, he said. None of them has turned up yet.

Another series of checks stolen from La Fon Tree Service at 15503 S. Main St. have been showing up, too, Bennett said. One check recovered was made out to Wayman Boyd Reid in the amount of \$47.98 and was signed by Sam La Fon, Bennett said the signature was apparently forged.

## Waitress Volunteers Her Side of Story

Platinum-haired, Virginia Conway, 22-year-old shapely cocktail waitress, charged with the attempted murder of her husband, whom she is accused of attempting to run over with a car, was out of jail today with her own story to tell about the whole bloody affair.

"All the newspapers," the ex-Hollywood screen actress told the Torrance Herald yesterday, "gave HIS side of the story. Now I want you to tell MY side, see?"

"Okay, then. I never attempted to run over him. I just drove down the embankment to hold him for the cops."

The attractive blonde, eager to talk about the affair, said she surrendered to sheriff deputies Wednesday night after she read in the newspapers she was wanted for the attempted murder of her 23-year-old husband, Tom Conway, unemployed Hollywood extra.

"That day (Oct. 29) my attorney, Donald Armstrong, served divorce papers on Tom. He blew his top. Tom, I mean, I was pulling into my mother's place at 2116 S. Main St. when I saw Tom. He picks up a couple of rocks—rocks hell, they were boulders as big as my head and he pitches them through the windows of my convertible. The blonde waitress claims she was partly mad because he was smirking her car, but what made her really mad was that her husband was throwing the rocks through the window without finding out whether the couple's 21-month-old baby was in the car.

She said that was the second time her husband had smashed the windows in her powder blue convertible. Last time was about a month ago outside the "Crisis," a Wilmington cocktail palace where she was "hustling drinks" as a cocktail waitress.

"He also smashed my top with a knife trying to get into the car," she claims.

The reporter asked, "How come you didn't have him arrested the time he broke out the car windows in Wilmington?"

"Well, I tried but the cops told me that if I had him arrested they would have to arrest me too. You see, when he started breaking the car windows I grabbed a mop handle and tried to stop him. They said they would have to arrest me on assault. Tom had some wits on his back."

The Herald reporter asked her what happened last July 27 on Torrance Blvd. and Cota Ave. Police reports indicated that the pretty blonde waitress had attempted to run over her husband that night but after being released from the Harbor General Hospital the husband

## Group Shelves Smog as Project After Report

Following a report which gave the General Petroleum Corp. refinery here a clean bill of health as far as injurious air pollutants is concerned, the problem of smog was temporarily shelved Thursday night as a project of the recently organized Torrance Civic Betterment Association.

F. J. Major, of 17615 Yukon Ave., stated he was satisfied after getting a report from the County Air Pollution Control Board and from statements by General Petroleum officials that the company is attempting to control factors which produce objectionable odors.

Earlier last week, A. E. Thompson, manager of the huge Torrance refinery, stated that he would favor a workable city smog ordinance. He stated that he was positive that "no poisonous gases" were being released at the refinery and cited as proof the fact that many employees of the company work at the refinery both night and day and have for many years without suffering any ill effects due to "poisonous gases."

Approximately ten persons attended Thursday night's meeting of the Civic Betterment Assn., including representatives from the oil company, Dale Isenberg, executive secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Major, and several others.

Another meeting of the association is slated for Thursday night in the City Hall court room chambers.

## Donor Gives \$50

## Woman Who Lost Purse Aided by Anonymous Gift

The milk of human kindness has not soured in Torrance.

Thursday, the Herald ran a story telling of the plight of Mrs. Beatrice Bostwick, 4223 W. 163rd St., who appealed to us after she had lost her last \$24 on a Torrance bus.

Mrs. Bostwick, a widow, had borrowed the money from her closest relative, a sister in Texas, and was going to use it to pay part of her hospital bills of her mother, who is suffering from a heart condition at Harbor General Hospital.

Mrs. Bostwick had been caring for her mother at their home, and both had been living off the mother's pension. Now, since the mother is in the hospital, the pension is cut off.

A kindly man, who asked to remain anonymous, came into the Herald office Friday and donated \$50 to help Mrs. Bostwick pay her bills.

And she can use the money. She received final notice from the gas and light company last week and her gas and electricity will be shut off soon if she fails to pay the bill. She has no means of income, but has offered her services as a practical nurse to anyone who needs her.

Since she was not employed regularly, Mrs. Bostwick cannot collect unemployment insurance. She has appealed to the Bureau of Public Assistance for help and they are reviewing her case now.

Thanks to a kindly Torrance man—the anonymous donor—Mrs. Bostwick can live for a little while. She can pay a few of her bills and buy a little food to sustain her. It's nice to think that at least one person out of Torrance's 40,000 has a heart.

## Rivierans Want Underground Water Tanks

Residents of Hollywood Riviera are making a big haul for a water company has intentions of erecting two storage tanks in their exclusive residential area.

They have asked the Planning Commission of the city to defer action on the California Water Service Company's request until Nov. 18. On that date the commission is scheduled to hear a report by Commissioner Leo DeMayle who is investigating the variance application.

The residents claim the tanks would be unsightly and would lower property values. They have suggested the tanks be placed underground.